

proud to say represents me in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, is an accomplished legislator who was first elected in 1989. She has demonstrated leadership throughout her entire career. And her activism in cultural, ecclesiastical, civil rights, and political organizations has enriched the lives of every Philadelphian.

Madam Speaker, Louise Williams Bishop is much more than just a legislator. A true servant of God, she has evangelized in the pulpit, in the capitol, and over the airwaves. For four decades, her radio program, "The Louise Williams Show," has been the hallmark of gospel radio. Her excellence in broadcasting has earned her many accolades, including the title "The Queen of Gospel Radio." For so many Philadelphians, Reverend Bishop has been a blessing in their cars and in their living rooms. She has been a lifeline for thousands of shut ins who would otherwise miss their worship experience. Each of them feels that she is his or her personal friend and minister. And, in many ways she is.

Madam Speaker, today, Representative Bishop will host her 20th annual birthday celebration tribute to the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. For all the time she has hosted this celebration, I have been proud to call her my representative, my advisor, and my friend. I know that all of my colleagues in the Congress join me in honoring her.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

SPEECH OF

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the passing of a great President and American, President Gerald R. Ford.

As I reflect upon the distinguished life and legacy of President Ford, the first things that come to mind are his honesty, integrity, and ability to make the tough decisions for a nation that was fiercely divided by war and recovering from a scandal at the highest level of government. He served with the best interest of America in mind, never losing sight of his faith, family, and his beloved roots in southwest Michigan.

President Ford was truly a Michigan original, and folks throughout our State saw an ordinary man become extraordinary; yet, he always remained our native son. His upbringing in Michigan molded the man that Gerry Ford became—growing up in an environment that encouraged him to pursue his vision of what America should and could be.

I have the great honor and privilege of representing some of the very same folks in southwest Michigan that President Ford did during his time in Congress.

All our hearts go out to Betty and the Ford children: Mike, Jack, Steve, and Susan during this difficult time.

His legacy continues to grow particularly as we see first hand the partisan divisions which divide our country and this Congress. President Ford was one that always put his country first and his party second.

President Ford was a remarkable man and an outstanding representative of the Wolverine

State. Our Nation was blessed to have such a compassionate and steadfast leader and he will forever remain in our memory.

Farewell to our President. Go Blue.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN METHAMPHETAMINE ENFORCEMENT AND TREATMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement and Treatment Act of 2007.

Last year, Congress passed the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 as part of the reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act. Included in the bill were provisions that authorized funding for three important grant programs—the COPS Hot Spots Program, the Drug-Endangered Children Program, and the Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders Program.

The Hot Spots Program specifically provides funding for a broad range of initiatives designed to assist State and local law enforcement in undertaking antimethamphetamine initiatives. The Drug-Endangered Children Grant Program provides comprehensive services to assist children who live in a home where meth has been used, manufactured, and sold. The Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders Grant Program is designed to facilitate cooperation between the criminal justice, child welfare, and substance abuse systems in order to reduce the use of drugs by pregnant women and those with dependant children.

Unfortunately, tribal governments were unintentionally left out as possible applicants for the Hot Spots and Drug-Endangered Children Programs. The legislation I am introducing today seeks to rectify this by ensuring that, consistent with tribal sovereignty, tribes can apply for these grants, just as States can. Additionally, while tribes were included as eligible applicants for the Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders Grant Program, clarifying language is needed to ensure there is ample coordination with tribal service providers. This legislation works to achieve this coordination.

In 2005, the Drug Enforcement Administration and State and local law enforcement officials counted 12,484 Clandestine Laboratory Incidents in 48 States. In New Mexico alone, the State Department of Public Safety Narcotics Section handled over 400 cases involving meth in 2004. While this is disturbing enough, the situation can be worse in Native American communities. In studies of "past year methamphetamine use," Native communities have the highest use rates—more than double the use rate of other ethnicities. Additionally, when the Bureau of Indian Affairs surveyed tribes about law enforcement, more than 70 percent said that meth is the drug that poses the greatest threat to their reservation. It is evident that more needs to be done to stop the manufacturing and use of meth.

As a co-vice chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus and a member of the Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine, I am uniquely aware of the

substantial obstacles our criminal justice, child welfare, and substance abuse systems face in the fight against meth. As such, I am pleased to introduce this legislation today and wish to thank original cosponsor Representative DALE KILDEE for his support. Mr. KILDEE has worked diligently on this matter and continues to be a strong advocate for all Native American issues. I urge my colleagues to join us in helping to give Native American communities the resources they need to combat this epidemic, by cosponsoring this bill.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARIAN MONA CARMACK

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute Johnson County Librarian Mona Carmack, who is retiring later this month, and will be honored on January 25, at the Overland Park Sheraton Hotel. Because of scheduled votes in Congress that evening, I will be unable to attend, but want to recognize her today. It is only fitting that the Library of Congress will contain a tribute to an outstanding librarian of our era.

Johnson County is the fastest growing county in Kansas. During her 18 years of exemplary professional service to our citizens, Mona oversaw the expansion of the library system with six new branches, and significant improvements at three others. The library system's holdings increased from nearly 565,000 to 1.5 million during her tenure, and the operating budget increased from \$5 million to \$21.6 million.

Most amazing of all, during that time, the circulation per capita increased from 6.1 to 16.4, and the percentage of the county's population registered as library users increased from 72 percent to 84 percent. Our county libraries are beautiful, airy, modern facilities, packed with excellent resources, and significantly contribute to the outstanding quality of life that Johnson Countians enjoy.

Mona and her staff have received numerous national library awards, including being named a Finalist in the Innovations in American Government competition in 1998, and culminating in a National Award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in 2005. Mona was honored by her peers with 2002 awards from the Kansas Library Association and the Mountain Plains Library Association.

Like any good librarian, the issue dearest to Mona's heart is literacy. Literacy is emphasized in children's programming, and the Library, in cooperation with the Johnson County Community College, operates an adult literacy program. Mona also serves on metropolitan literacy organizations, such as the Literacy Kansas City Board and the Metropolitan Alliance for Adult Learning.

After I took office in 1999, Mona was kind enough to give me a tour and briefing of the library. My office has often used the outstanding facilities of the Johnson County libraries to host community office hours with my constituents.

Madam Speaker, we all wish Mona the very best for the next chapter of her life, and hope that she will continue to contribute her leadership and knowledge to our area.